Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

sible for me to regard the earth as free from rotation, if I conceive of the centrifugal force, which acts on all bodies at rest relatively to the earth, as being a "real" field of gravitation, or part of such a field? If this idea can be carried out, then we shall have proved in very truth the identity of gravitation and inertia. For the same property which is regarded as *inertia* from the point of view of a system not taking part in the rotation can be interpreted as *gravitation* when considered with respect to a system that shares the rotation. According to Newton, this interpretation is impossible, because by Newton's law the centrifugal field can not be regarded as being produced by matter, and because in Newton's theory there is no place for a "real" field of the "Koriolis-field" type. But perhaps Newton's law of field could be replaced by another that fits in with the field which holds with respect to a "rotating" system of coordinates? My conviction of the identity of inertial and gravitational mass aroused within me the feeling of absolute confidence in the correctness of this interpretation. In this connection I gained encouragement from the following idea. We are familiar with the "apparent" fields which are valid relatively to systems of coordinates possessing arbitrary motion with respect to an inertial system. With the aid of these special fields we should be able to study the law which is satisfied in general by gravitational fields.

A NEWS SERVICE FOR SCIENCE

Science Service is the name of an agency newly established in Washington for the diffusion of knowledge. It is generously supported by Mr. E. W. Scripps and will be a corporation conducted without profit, all receipts being used for the work and its extension.

The Service will pay adequately for notes and articles that are scientifically correct and of popular interest and will dispose of them through the existing news syndicates and in other ways that will provide the largest possible circulation. It plans also to take up motion pictures and all other methods useful for the popularization of science.

The first board of trustees of Science Service is composed as follows:

Representatives of the National Academy of Sciences

Dr. A. A. Noyes, director, chemical research, California Institute of Technology.

Dr. R. A. Milikan, professor of physics, University of Chicago.

Dr. John C. Merriam, president, Carnegie Institution of Washington.

Representatives of the American Association for the Advancement of Science

Dr. D. T. MacDougal, director, Desert Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution.

Dr. J. McKeen Cattell, editor, *Science* and Scientific Monthly.

Dr. George I. Moore, director, Missouri Botanical Gardens.

Representatives of The National Research Council

Dr. Vernon Kellogg, permanent secretary, National Research Council.

Dr. George E. Hale, director, Mount Wilson Observatory of the Carnegie Institution.

Dr. R. M. Yerkes, chairman, Research Information Service, National Research Council.

Representatives of the Scripps Estate

Mr. E. W. Scripps, Miramar, California.

Mr. R. P. Scripps, Cleveland, Ohio.

Dr. W. E. Ritter, director, Scripps Institution for Biological Research of the University of California.

Representatives of the Journalistic Profession

Edwin F. Gay, president, *New York Evening Post Company,* New York City.

Chester H. Rowell, former editor, *The Fresno Republican,* Berkeley, California.

William Allen White, editor, *The Emporia Gazette,* Emporia, Kansas.

Dr. W. E. Ritter is president of the board, Mr. R. P. Scripps, treasurer, and Dr. Vernon Kellogg, vice-president and chairman of the executive committee This committee is

DR. ERNEST FOX NICHOLS
PRESIDENT OF THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

composed of five members, one selected from each group of trustees from the different organizations represented on the board. The present members of the committee are the president and vice-president of the board, Dr. J. McKeen Cattell and Dr. J. C. Merriam. A member from the journalistic group is yet to be selected.

As editor the board of trustees has selected Edwin E. Slosson, Ph.D., who for twelve years was professor of chemistry in the University of Wyoming and for seventeen years literary editor of *The Independent,* New York. He has been associate in the Columbia School of Journalism since its foundation and is the author of "Creative Chemistry," "Easy Lessons in Einstein," and other scientific and literary publications.

As manager of the new enterprise the board has selected Howard Wheeler, formerly editor of the San Francisco *Daily News,* Pacific coast manager of the Newspaper Enterprise Association, managing editor of *Harpers Weekly,* and for five years editor of *Everybody's Magazine.*

The headquarters of Science Service have been provisionally established in the building of the National Research Council, at 1701 Massachusetts Avenue, Washington, D. C.

THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND PRESIDENT NICHOLS

The election of Dr. Ernest Fox Nichols. as president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was announced by the corporation on March 30. Dr. Nichols succeeds the late Dr. Richard C. Maclaurin, also a distinguished physicist, under whose administration the institute moved to its new buildings and made notable progress in its educational work.

For the last twelve months Dr. Nichols has been director of physical research at the Nela Park Laboratory of the National Electric Lamp Association, Cleveland. He was born in 1869 at Leavenworth, Kansas, graduated from the Kansas Agricultural College and received from Cornell University the degree of doctor of science in 1897. In 1892 Dr. Nichols was appointed to the chair of physics and astronomy at Colgate University, where he remained for six years. More than two years of this time, however, was spent on leave of absence during which he studied at the University of Berlin. There he discovered the metallic reflection of quartz and its anomalous dispersion in the infra-red spectrum, which led to a new method of spectrum analysis by which the spectrum was extended to six times the previous limits. Rubens, Wood and von Bayer were thus enabled to make a further extension, detecting heat waves 1/64 inch in length.

In 1898 Dr. Nichols was called to the professorship of physics in Dartmouth College, where he made the first measurements of the heat received from several of the brighter stars and planets, by using a radiometer of his own invention, and with Dr. Hull, in 1901, discovered the pressure of a beam of light which had been predicted by Maxwell. Simultaneously the Russian physicist, Lebedev, was able to detect this pressure, but unable to measure it.

After five years at Dartmouth, Dr. Nichols was called to the chair of experimental physics in Columbia University. The year 1904-05 Dr. Nichols spent at Cambridge, England, and lectured at the Royal Institution in London and the Cavendish Laboratory of Cambridge University. He remained at Columbia until 1909, when he was called to the presidency of Dartmouth, resigning in 1916 to become professor of physics at Yale University. This latter position he held until 1920, but during the war he was associated with the Bureau of Ordnance of the Navy Department.